

In re Application of Mark Kiff
Application No. 10/706,807

REMARKS

The Pending Claims

Claim 18 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, as directed to a non-elected invention. New claims 19-21 have been added. Thus, claims 14-17 and 19-21 currently are pending in the application.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office Action withdraws claim 18, which is directed to a screen printed textile and was erroneously grouped with method claims 14-17, from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention pursuant to Applicant's election filed on March 7, 2005.

The Office Action rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,494,925 (Child et al.) (hereinafter "the Child '925 patent") and U.S. Patent No. 4,353,706 (Burns, Jr. et al.) (hereinafter "the Burns '706 patent").

The Office Action also rejects claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Child '925 patent and the Burns '706 patent.

Discussion of the Section 102 and 103 Rejections

As noted above, the Office Action rejects the pending claims as allegedly anticipated by or obvious over the Child '925 patent and the Burns '706 patent. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The portions of the Child '925 and the Burns '706 patents relied upon in the Office Action indicate that the fiber degrading composition contains a dye. Thus, the fiber degrading composition and the dye would be simultaneously applied, rather than the separate and sequential application recited in the pending claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter defined by the pending claims cannot properly be considered anticipated by the Child '925 or the Burns '706 patents.

Moreover, the Office Action does not identify any teaching or suggestion which would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to modify those portions of the Child '925 or the Burns '706 patents relied upon in the Office Action in such a way as to arrive at the subject matter defined by the pending claims. Therefore,

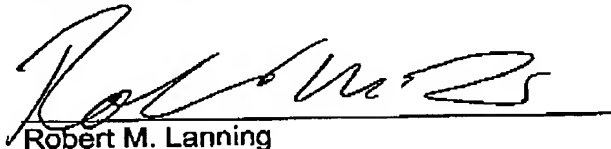
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Applicant respectfully submits that the invention defined by the pending claims cannot properly be considered obvious over the Child '925 or the Burns '706 patents.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the application is considered in proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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